

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 480

By Rowland

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Ronnie Barrett, 2006 Ernst and Young Entrepreneur of the Year.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens, who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves as community leaders and innovators of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Ronnie Barrett, founder and owner of Barrett Firearms Manufacturing, Inc., which is the world's premier manufacturer of .50 caliber rifles and a source of pride for the State; Mr. Barrett has recently been named the 2006 Ernst and Young Entrepreneur of the Year in the Southeast Defense and Security Category; and

WHEREAS, this prestigious award recognizes leaders and visionaries who are creating and building world-class businesses; and

WHEREAS, a born problem solver and innovative thinker, Mr. Barrett passionately pursued his belief in a .50 caliber rifle that could be shoulder-fired; in 1982, at the age of twenty-eight and through self-taught engineering and personal research and development, Mr. Barrett designed and manufactured the M82 .50 caliber rifle; and

WHEREAS, since then, the M82 has been accepted by long-range competitive shooters, utilized by law enforcement, and used by fifty allied countries throughout the world; one model of Barrett rifle, the Model 82A1, has been coined the "Grandfather of .50 caliber rifles"; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Barrett not only invented a dependable rifle, he also pioneered a viable market for an entirely new classification of rifle; recognized as the world's premier manufacturer of .50 caliber rifles, he dominates this market and enjoys strong customer allegiance; and

WHEREAS, once known only as a rifle inventor, Mr. Barrett is now known as an accomplished businessman leading a highly profitable operation; he has secured his company's future by continuously reducing manufacturing costs, motivating and training a top-quality

workforce, and funding research and development to create innovative products exceeding the high expectations of a Barrett customer; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his work with Barrett Firearms, Mr. Barrett still finds time to lend his talents to such notable community activities as the Tennessee Philharmonic Symphony, which he serves as a board member; he is also very active and supportive in local political proceedings and functions; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to accolades, Mr. Barrett has been recognized with several honors, including the George Chinn Award from the National Defense Industrial Association for excellence in support of the American soldier and the 2004 Businessman of the Year award from the Rutherford Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, in March 2005, the Barrett M107 was recognized by the Chief of Staff office of the United States Army as one of the "Top Ten Greatest Inventions" for the war on terror; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Barrett is truly a well-rounded individual who has been able to balance every area of his life while succeeding in the challenges he has set forth for himself; he is a man of inspiration and without a doubt deserves recognition for his many successful outcomes in his struggle to succeed; and

WHEREAS, Ronnie Barrett, with the self-made success of Barrett Firearms Manufacturing, Inc., as well as his other worthy endeavors, epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Ronnie Barrett for his dedication to the State of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Ronnie Barrett and the entire team behind Barrett Firearms Manufacturing, Inc., for their commitment to excellence, congratulate Mr. Barrett upon being named 2006 Ernst and Young Entrepreneur of the Year, and extend our best wishes for all future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.